

Police Seizure of Panther Records Legal, Court Rules

Records obtained by police during raids on three Black Panther facilities last month were legally seized and will not be suppressed as evidence, Municipal Judge James H. Brown ruled Monday.

The suppression had been asked by attorneys Leo Branton Jr., Luke McKissack and Phill Silver, representing Panthers arrested Dec. 8 after a gun battle at Panther headquarters, 4115 S. Central Ave.

The lawyers first moved for a ruling that raids on the headquarters and on Panther facilities at 1100½ W. Exposition Blvd. and 334 W. 55th St. were made on the basis of illegally issued warrants.

When Judge Brown denied this motion, the three moved for suppression of evidence contained in three cardboard boxes of party records found in the bedroom of Elmer and Sandra Pratt at the 55th St. building. They said the records were not mentioned in the warrant.

Police Sgt. Robert A. Sharret said he had no time to obtain an additional search warrant because of the emergency situation.

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